

The Boston Globe

Boston, Massachusetts 02107 Telephone 617-929-2000

July 2, 1981

Enclosed are ~~the~~ ^{the} tape recordings which were prepared in connection with The Boston Globe's 6/21/81 Focus Section story on the controversy surrounding some of the medical evidence in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The tapes consist of interviews with eight doctors and two nurses who attended the president at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. The doctors are: Ronald Jones, Charles Baxter, Marion Jenkins, Adolph Giesecke, Gene Akin, Robert Grossman, Richard Dulany, and Paul Peters. The nurses are Doris Nelson and Patricia Gustafson.

Also enclosed are copies of letters from Drs. Malcolm Perry and Charles Carrico, with whom the Globe had correspondence, but no personal interviews. Also note a set of notes taken by Globe reporter Ben Bradlee Jr. based on his telephone interview with another attending Dallas physician, Dr. Robert McClelland.

The reporters conducting the taped interviews were Ben Bradlee Jr and Nils Bruzelius.

Ben Bradlee Jr.

Ben Bradlee Jr.

MR 87-60

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

April 8, 1981

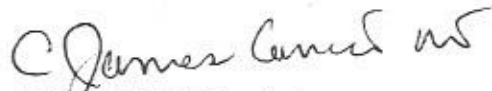
School of Medicine
Department of Surgery

Ben Bradlee
The Boston Globe
Boston, Mass. 02107

Dear Mr. Bradlee:

Regarding your query of March 26, 1981, the drawing which you have asked my opinion about is, in part, commensurate with what I saw. Specifically, it was a very large wound as indicated in the drawing. However, I do not believe that the large wound was this far posterior since, one thing I am certain of, is that we were able to see the majority, if not all of this wound, with the patient laying on his back on a hospital gurney. The location of the wound represented in the drawing suggests that it would barely have been visible, if visible at all, with the patient laying in such a position.

Sincerely,


C. James Carrico, M.D.
Professor of Surgery

CJC:ka

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

April 7, 1981

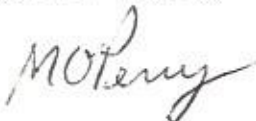
Nils Bruzelius
The Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts 02107

Dear Mr. Bruzelius:

As I indicated to you previously, I did not make a careful or specific examination of the head wounds during those fateful days in 1963, and the only person who really did make such an examination in my presence was Dr. Kemp Clark, Chief of Neurosurgery at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Clark, being experienced in wounds in this area, is in my opinion the only one who is qualified to speak about the nature and extent of the wound. Since I only made a cursory examination and eighteen years has not improved my recall, I regret that I can give no specific statements to amplify the nature of the wounds other than the information which I presented as part of my testimony. Those data are available in the Warren Report and comprise the total extent of my knowledge at the time.

By the way, Dr. McClelland spells his name McClelland. He would not be offended by the misspelling, but I know you would like to rectify it for your records.

Sincerely yours,



Malcolm O. Perry, M.D.

MOP:mn



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

March 5, 1981

School of Medicine
Department of Surgery

Ben Bradlee
The Boston Globe
Boston, Mass. 02107

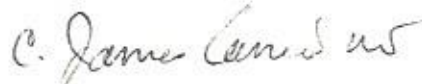
Dear Mr. Bradlee:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 26, 1981. Thank you also for the copies of the drawings and photographs. As you know, the copy of the photograph is not terribly clear but I think I can see the points the photograph makes. I have looked at them carefully and have tried to jog my 17 year old memory.

The short answer to your question is that there is nothing in the pictures and drawings that is incompatible with the injury as I remember it. Having said that, let me point out a couple of things which may help you in your attempt to interpret the situation and apparent conflicts. According to the drawings from Dr. Lattimer there were two wounds. The photograph also shows a posterior wound. We never saw, and did not look for, any posterior wound. Our responsibility was to evaluate the wounds from the standpoint of what might be done to keep the patient alive. The forensic pathologist's responsibility is to evaluate the wounds from the standpoint of mechanisms, how they were inflicted, etc. The wounds as we looked at them were from the front and top with the patient laying on a gurney on his back. On the picture of the skull you sent me I have outlined very roughly the approximate location of the defect in the President's head as I remember it. I make no attempt to identify the exact location or size. In terms of life support, the major observation I was required to make was that there was a very large defect and considerable brain damage. I can assure you that those observations were valid.

I am most happy to support and assist in any way I can in idealistic attempts to determine any historical truths. I become irritated and distressed at entrepreneurial efforts to gain fame or fortune from this disaster in our country's history.

Sincerely,



C. James Carrico, M.D.
Professor of Surgery

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

March 5, 1981

Nils J. Bruzelius
The Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts 02107

Dear Mr. Bruzelius:

I reviewed the material forwarded and as far as I remember the illustrations and tracings seem to be consistent with what I saw. I mentioned to you over the phone that I spent very little time in examining the head wound since I had much to do and essentially no time to do it. A cursory glance at the head wound is not sufficient for accurate descriptions, and no measurements were made. Nevertheless, the drawings which you submitted to me are consistent with what I remember.

I'm sorry to be of so little help, but as you must know I really have no new, pertinent information.

Sincerely yours,

MOPerry
Malcolm O. Perry, M.D.

MOP:mn



*Apex location
of defect or I remember it.*

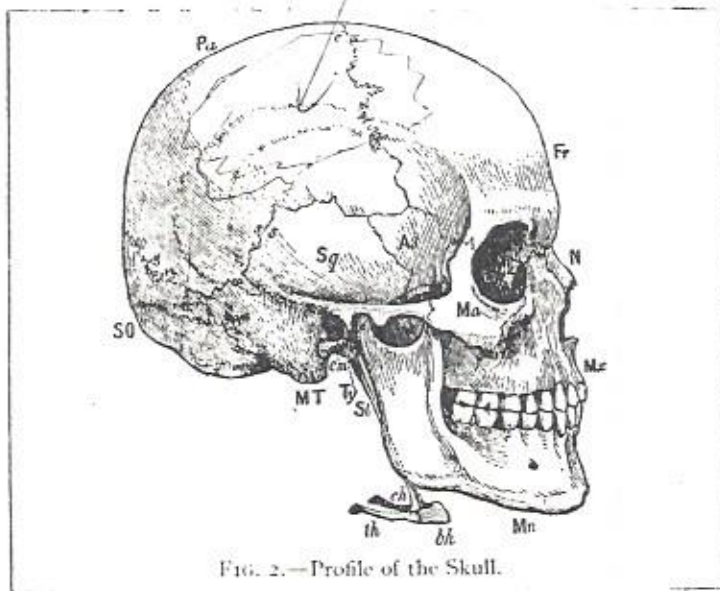


FIG. 2.—Profile of the Skull.

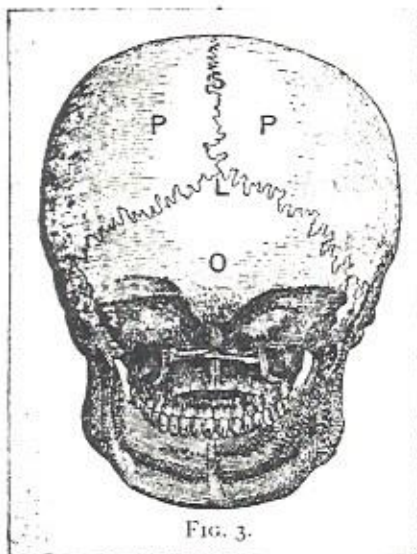


FIG. 3.



FIG. 1.

---Bradley phone interview with Dr. McLelland, the night of March 10, 1981, Boston to Dallas.

--referring to the Six Seconds in Dallas drawing, McLelland said: ``That's what I still think. That's accurate. I talked to Josiah Thompson himself and cleared the drawing before the book was published. I was standing at the head and looking at the wound...that drawing is what I vividly remember.

``If the autopsy photo looks different, then I recollected wrong, or the photo was taken at another angle or something."

--``I don't have an opinion on the Lifton book. I have no opinion on this whole issue. To make some half-cocked statement now is irresponsible...Any response I make concerning the autopsy photo is not going to mean much. I don't want to create a bandwagon for some new theory. All I can say is that the Thompson drawing is the wound as I remember it."

--McLelland said he felt he had been personally victimized once before with respect to those who would seek alternate explanations for the assassination. It was McLelland who wrote in his report filed on the day of the assassination that the president had died due to a gunshot wound to the left temple. He said Dr. Jenkins had told him this, and that although he (McLelland) had not seen this wound, he mistakenly included this hearsay in his report, and later had to retract the statement. He said it was his report which prompted New Orleans DA Jim Garrison to launch his investigation

MR 87-60

--"Though I did see the head wound as depicted by Thompson, for me to say now that this doesn't conform to the autopsy photo is crawling way out on a limb, based on minimal data, and would make me look like a fool. There are very few things I am certain of anymore. The older I get, the less certain I am of anything. I think there are very few things in the Kennedy case that one can be certain of.

"My life is bound up in more critical things now, forgive me. If this were going to help bring President Kennedy back, or bring his killers to justice, that's one thing. But I think this is mostly backyard gossip and morbid curiosity."

--As for the basic discrepancy between the autopsy photo and what most of the Dallas doctors and nurses remember, McLelland offered: "People remember things differently." Or, he added later, "maybe the scalp moved around. I'm just speculating now, but it may be that the scalp was pulled back when we saw it and in a different position when the autopsists saw it. The scalp is a very flexible thing. It is like a rubber sheet and can be torn loose from the bone. This might be an explanation, I don't know."

(END)